

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 April 2003 (24.04.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/033713 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12N 15/82**

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB02/04642

(22) International Filing Date: 11 October 2002 (11.10.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0124574.5 12 October 2001 (12.10.2001) GB

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: OIL BIOSYNTHESIS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method of producing, in a plant, oil having an erucic acid content above 66 % erucic acid, the method comprising (i) expressing in the plant nucleic acid encoding an elongase and nucleic acid encoding an acyltransferase enzyme; and (ii) extracting oil from the plant. Corresponding plants seeds and oils are also provided.



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OIL BIOSYNTHESIS

The present invention relates to the production of commercially useful oil in plants. In particular, the invention provides a method for producing such oil in plants. Also
5 provided are the plants or parts thereof from which the oil is derived, use of the plant, and the oil itself.

Plants have long been a commercially valuable source of oil. Traditionally, plant oils were used for nutritional purposes. Recently, however, attention has focused on plant
10 oils as sources of industrial oils, for example as replacements for, or improvements on, mineral oils. Given that oil seeds of commercially useful crops such as *Brassica napus* contain a variety of lipids (Hildish & Williams, "Chemical Composition of Natural Lipids", Chapman Hall, London, 1964), it is desirable to tailor the lipid composition to better suit our needs, for example using recombinant DNA technology
15 (Knauf, *TIBtech*, February 1987, 40-47).

The production of commercially desirable specific oils in plants on a large scale is limited in two ways. Some plant species make oils with very high levels of essentially pure, specific fatty acids, but these species are unable to be grown in sufficient
20 quantities and of sufficient yield to provide a commercially valuable product. Other plant species produce sufficient amounts of oil, but the oil has low levels of the specific desired fatty acids. Nevertheless, the field of oil modification in plants is wide and a number of different products have already been designed. Rape oil containing lauric acid has been marketed, and soybeans with modified levels of
25 unsaturated fatty acids are available. In some cases the production of speciality oils seems to be straight-forward. In others, however, a number of unexpected complications have arisen which have hampered the production of plants capable of making some specific oils. For example, mutations in plant lipid synthesis genes are generally difficult to detect due to the pleiotrophic effects of mutations on plant
30 hardiness and yield. Even if detected, proteins involved in pathways of interest have

proved difficult to isolate due to their biochemical instability. Where regulation of such proteins has been successfully altered, results generally do not coincide with expectations, presumably due to the effect of multiple converging pathways. Examples of such problems relating to the production of *Arabidopsis* producing petroselinic acid are disclosed in Ohlrogge, 13th International Symposium on Plant Lipids, Seville, Spain: 219 & 801, (1998). Thus, there is considerable work yet to be done in achieving reliable, large-scale production of a range of commercially desirable oils.

Broadly speaking, there are two main approaches to altering the lipid content of an oil, which to date have been applied as alternatives. Firstly, plants may be modified to produce fatty acids which are foreign to the native plant. For example, rape may be modified to produce laureate which is not naturally produced by that plant. Secondly, the pattern and/or extent of incorporation of fatty acids into the glycerol backbone of a lipid may be altered.

Lipids are formed by the addition of the fatty acid moieties into the glycerol backbone by acyltransferase enzymes. There are three positions on the glycerol backbone at which fatty acids may be introduced. The acyltransferase enzymes which are specific for each position are hence referred to as 1-, 2-, and 3- acyltransferase enzymes respectively.

One of the aims of lipid engineering is to produce oils which are high in erucic (22:1) acid. Such oils are desirable for a number of reasons, in particular as replacements and/or substitutes for mineral oils, as described above. In the case of *Brassica napus* one of the most commercially important crops cultivated today, and other oil seed *Brassica* species, e.g. *Brassica juncea*, the 2-acyltransferase positively discriminates against the incorporation of erucic acid in the second position. Thus, even in those crops where erucic acid is incorporated into the first and third positions, only a

maximum of 66% of the fatty acids of the lipid can be erucic acid. These latter varieties of rape are nevertheless known as HEAR (high erucic acid rape) varieties.

It is desirable to further increase the erucic acid content of both HEAR varieties, and
5 other useful vegetable oil crops, for example maize, sunflower, soya, mustards and linseed. Genes encoding 2-acyltransferases have been introduced into plants, in order to try to incorporate erucic acid into the second position of the glycerol backbone, with the aim of increasing the overall erucic acid content in a lipid (Brough *et al.*, *Mol Breeding* 2: 133-142 (1996)). This was successful in the re-distribution of erucic acid
10 in the triglyceride but has not increased the overall erucic acid content of the oil. One possible reason for this is that the levels of "free" erucic acid available for incorporation into lipids in a plant are too low to support high levels of trierucin synthesis (Millar *et al.*, *The Plant J.* 12(1) 121-131 (1997)). Thus, knowledge of the factors involved in the regulation of erucic acid levels in a plant is being sought.

15 In this text, the terms "free" or "available" erucic acid mean erucic acid which has not been incorporated into lipid. References to the erucic acid content of oil means that which has been incorporated into lipid.

20 Biochemical and genetic studies have elucidated most of the pathways involved in the production of vegetable oils (Ohlrogge & Browse, *Plant Cell* 7: 957-970, 1995). An enzyme involved in the synthesis of fatty acids is the fatty acid elongation enzyme (FAE) complex, also referred to as an elongase. This enzyme complex is responsible for the conversion of fatty acids 18 carbons long, such as oleic (18:1) acid, to fatty
25 acids known as very long chain fatty acids, which include erucic acid (22:1). Given its involvement in the production of erucic acid, it is apparent that the elongase plays a role in regulation of the levels of free erucic acid in a plant. Thus, it has been suggested that, in relation to *Arabidopsis*, over-expression of the FAE1 gene may assist in obtaining higher levels of free erucic acid (Millar *et al.*, *The Plant J.* 12(1)
30 121-131 (1997)). Depending upon the plant species, the products of this enzyme are

C20 and C22 saturated fatty acids, utilised in wax production in leek, or C20 to C24 monounsaturated fatty acids utilised as seed storage oils in crucifers.

Over recent years, a number of β -keto-acyl-CoA synthetase ("elongase") genes, in
5 addition to the *Arabidopsis* FAE1 gene, have been cloned from a variety of species. Sequence data is available for elongases isolated from *Arabidopsis* (Millar & Kunst, *Plant J.* 12: 121-131, (1997)), jojoba (Lassner *et al*, *Plant Cell* 8: 281-292, (1996)), honesty (Millar & Kunst, *Plant J.* 12: 121-131, (1997)), leek (Evenson & Post-Beittenmiller, *Plant Physiol.* 109: 707-716, (1995)) and oilseed rape (Sequence:
10 Genbank AF009563 & BNU50771). These enzymes all produce a range of other very long chain fatty acids besides erucic acid, for example fatty acid 20:1 in *Arabidopsis* and oilseed rape, fatty acids 20:0 and 22:0 in leek and fatty acid 24:1 in honesty and jojoba.

15 Recently, experiments have been performed on high-erucic acid rapeseed plants in which the plants were transformed with constructs encoding an acyltransferase and an elongase. However, none of the transformants were found to contain erucic acid levels greater than 60% (Han *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Bio.* 46 229-239 (2001)).

20 The present invention aims to overcome or ameliorate the above problems of the prior art by enabling for the first time the production of lipid with higher levels of erucic acid.

Thus, in a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of
25 producing, in a plant, oil containing more than 66% erucic acid, wherein the method comprises (i) expressing in the plant nucleic acid encoding an elongase and nucleic acid encoding an acyltransferase; and (ii) extracting oil from the plant.

The present invention is based upon the inventors' discovery that the combination of
30 an elongase enzyme and an acyltransferase enzyme expressed in a plant can have the

surprising effect of increasing the erucic acid content of oil to above the theoretical maximum of 66%. These results mean that for the first time it has been possible to introduce erucic acid into all three positions in the glycerol backbone in at least a portion of the lipid of the oil and also cause an overall increase in the erucic acid incorporated into lipid rather than merely redistributing the erucic acid on the glycerol backbone. Thus, for the first time the invention enables the production of oil containing above 66% erucic acid in an ergonomic and agronomic fashion. The resulting oil can be used in a variety of industrial applications, such as feedstock's for surfactants, plasticisers, and surface coatings.

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The nucleic acid sequences of the invention may be DNA or RNA, or any other option. The nucleic acid may be recombinant or isolated.

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The elongase enzyme expressed in the plant is preferably one capable of the production of very long chain fatty acids including erucic acid, most preferably specific for the production of erucic acid. Examples of preferred elongase enzymes are *Brassica napus* FAE1-1 and FAE1-2 of Figures 1 and 2 respectively, or elongase enzymes encoded by the *B. napus* cDNA sequences disclosed in WO96/13582, or encoded by the *B. napus* sequences Genbank accession nos. AF009563 and BNU50771, or similar enzymes from other *Brassica* species, *Arabidopsis* (Millar & Kunst, *Plant J.* **12**: 121-131, (1997)), jojoba (Lassner *et al*, *Plant Cell* **8**: 281-292, (1996)), *Lunaria* (Millar & Kunst, *Plant J.* **12**: 121-131, (1997)) and *Nasturtium* (WO95/15387). Also included for use in the present invention are enzymes which are substantially identical in sequence to the elongases of Figure 1 and/or Figure 2, and which share the same enzyme activity as one or more of the elongases mentioned above.

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The acyltransferase enzyme to be expressed in the plant may be a 1-, 2-, or 3-acyltransferase, but most preferably is a 2-acyltransferase, and is therefore capable of introducing a fatty acid into the second position of the glycerol backbone. More

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preferably, the 2-acyltransferase is capable of introducing erucic acid into the glycerol backbone. Examples of suitable 2-acyltransferase enzymes include those from *Limnanthes alba* (WO95/27791), *Limnanthes douglassi* (WO96/24674 and WO96/09394). Also included are acyltransferases which are substantially identical thereto, and which share the same enzyme activity as one or more of the acyltransferases mentioned above.

In the context of the present invention the term “substantially identical” means that the sequence has at least 50% sequence identity, desirably at least 75% sequence identity and more desirably at least 90 or at least 95% sequence identity with one or more of the above mentioned sequences. In some cases the sequence identity may be 99% or above.

“% identity”, as known in the art, is a measure of the relationship between two polypeptide sequences or two polynucleotide sequences, as determined by comparing their sequences. In general, the two sequences to be compared are aligned to give a maximum correlation between the sequences. The alignment of the two sequences is examined and the number of positions giving an exact amino acid or nucleotide correspondence between the two sequences determined, divided by the total length of the alignment and multiplied by 100 to give a % identity figure. This % identity figure may be determined over the whole length of the sequences to be compared, which is particularly suitable for sequences of the same or very similar length and which are highly homologous, or over shorter defined lengths, which is more suitable for sequences of unequal length or which have a lower level of homology.

Methods for comparing the identity of two or more sequences are well known in the art. Thus for instance, programs available in the Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package, version 9.1 (Devereux J *et al*, Nucleic Acids Res. 12:387-395, 1984, available from Genetics Computer Group, Madison, Wisconsin, USA), for example the programs BESTFIT and GAP, may be used to determine the % identity between two polynucleotides and the % identity between two polypeptide sequences.

BESTFIT uses the "local homology" algorithm of Smith and Waterman (Advances in Applied Mathematics, 2:482-489, 1981) and finds the best single region of similarity between two sequences. BESTFIT is more suited to comparing two polynucleotide or two polypeptide sequences which are dissimilar in length, the program assuming that the shorter sequence represents a portion of the longer. In comparison, GAP aligns two sequences finding a "maximum similarity" according to the algorithm of Neddleman and Wunsch (J. Mol. Biol. 48:443-354, 1970). GAP is more suited to comparing sequences which are approximately the same length and an alignment is expected over the entire length. Preferably, the parameters "Gap Weight" and "Length Weight" used in each program are 50 and 3 for polynucleotide sequences and 12 and 4 for polypeptide sequences, respectively. Preferably, % identities and similarities are determined when the two sequences being compared are optimally aligned.

Other programs for determining identity and/or similarity between sequences are also known in the art, for instance the BLAST family of programs (Altschul S.F. *et al*, J. Mol. Biol., 215:403-410, 1990, Altschul S.F. *et al*, Nucleic Acids Res., 25:289-3402, 1997, available from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), Bethesda, Maryland, USA and accessible through the home page of the NCBI at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) and FASTA (Pearson W.R. and Lipman D.J., Proc. Nat. Acac. Sci., USA, 85:2444-2448, 1988, available as part of the Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package). Preferably, the BLOSUM62 amino acid substitution matrix (Henikoff S. and Henikoff J.G., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., USA, 89:10915-10919, 1992) is used in polypeptide sequence comparisons including where nucleotide sequences are first translated into amino acid sequences before comparison.

Preferably, the program BESTFIT is used to determine the % identity of a query polynucleotide or a polypeptide sequence with respect to a polynucleotide or a polypeptide sequence of the present invention, the query and the reference sequence being optimally aligned and the parameters of the program set at the default value.

Preferably, the elongase and/or acyltransferase enzyme used in the present invention will not be native to the plant (i.e. the enzyme will be foreign to the plant). Thus, the nucleic acid encoding the foreign enzymes may be referred to as a transgene. The plant hosting the nucleic acid encoding the foreign enzyme(s) will therefore be transgenic. Such a plant may be readily distinguished from native plants due to the presence of foreign genetic material which would not be found in the native, non-transgenic plant, for example, vector sequences, marker genes, and multiple copies of nucleic acid encoding one or both of the above enzymes.

The transgene may encode an enzyme which is not present in the native, non-transformed plant, for example the 2-acyltransferase able to incorporate erucic acid at position 2 encoded by *lat2* is not present in native, non-transformed *Brassica napus*. In such case a transgenic plant may be distinguished from a native, non-transformed plant by an assay for the foreign enzyme activity or by the presence of the reaction product (in this example trierucin). As the *Limnanthes* gene encoding *lat2* is not present in native, non-transformed *Brassica napus*, a transgenic plant may also be distinguished from a native, non-transformed plant by testing for the presence of the *lat2* gene sequence e.g. by PCR or Southern blot.

Alternatively the transgene may encode an enzyme which is already found in native, non-transformed plants, for example the elongase enzymes encoded by BnFAE1-1 and BnFAE1-2 are found in non-transformed *Brassica napus* (because this is the plant from which the genes were isolated). In this case a transgenic plant may be identified by changed enzyme activity (e.g. level, timing) in comparison with a non-transformed plant. Presence of the transgene may be positively verified by PCR or hybridisation tests for the presence of nucleotide sequences which are known to be unique to the expression cassette containing the transgene.

Preferably, the nucleic acid sequences encoding the acyltransferase and/or elongase are expressed in the plant through the period of oil biosynthesis. This preferably

includes at least the period during which the fatty acids are incorporated into the glycerol backbone, i.e. triacylglycerols are produced. It may also include the period during which very long chain fatty acids are produced, the period of oil accumulation in the plant, and/or the period of any oil modification. The timing of each of these stages of oil biosynthesis may be readily determined by a person skilled in the art using time-course experiments using well established biochemical methods, such as GLC (Gas Liquid Chromatography) and HPLC ELSD (Evaporative Light Scatter Detection) analysis on triglycerides. The precise temporal expression pattern of the nucleic acid sequences may be adjusted according to their role in the oil biosynthesis pathway. For example, it may be desirable to express the elongase enzyme prior to the start of oil biosynthesis, during the period of fatty acid synthesis, in order to effectively increase the amount of "free" erucic acid prior to its incorporation into lipid. Similarly, the acyltransferase enzyme may be best expressed during the period of triacylglycerol synthesis. Depending upon the degree of overlap between the different stages of oil biosynthesis, it may be preferable for the elongase and acyltransferase enzymes to be expressed at the same time. In a most preferred embodiment, the temporal expression patterns of the foreign enzymes will mimic those of the corresponding native enzymes of the plant.

In addition to conferring temporal specificity on the foreign enzymes, it may also be desirable to express them in a spatially specific manner, for example to reduce any adverse effects in parts of the plant not involved in oil biosynthesis. In a preferred embodiment, the elongase and/or acyltransferase enzymes are expressed in the seed of the host plant.

The desired temporal and spatial specificity may be conferred by the use of appropriate regulatory sequences to drive expression of the nucleic acid sequences encoding the elongase and acyltransferase enzymes. Use of these regulatory sequences will allow a tighter control of transgene expression and improved coordination with oil biosynthesis in seeds. This will enable potentiation of transgene

activity whilst avoiding ectopic expression. Thus, in a preferred embodiment, the elongase and/or acyltransferase nucleic acid sequences to be expressed in the plant are under the control of one or more regulatory sequences capable of driving expression in a temporally and spatially specific manner. Depending upon the desired temporal and spatial specificity of the acyltransferase and elongase enzymes, it may be preferably to place each under the control of the same or separate regulatory sequences. Examples of suitable regulatory sequences include the oleosin promoter (Plant *et al* Plant Mol Biol 25(2) 193-205 (1994)), the 2S napin promoter (European patent No 0255278), and the FAE promoters of *Brassica napus* (Han *et al.*, Plant Mol. Biol. **46** 229-239 (2001)) and Arabidopsis (Rossak *et al.*, Plant Mol. Biol. **46** 717-725 (2001)). The regulatory sequences which drive expression of the native elongase and acyltransferase enzymes in the plant may also be used. The nucleic acid sequence to be expressed may also comprise 3' polyadenylation sequences, for example the Chalcone Synthase polyadenylation termination signal sequence.

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In achieving the desired levels of erucic acid in the oil of the transgenic plant, it may be useful to overexpress the transgenes. Thus, the expression level will be higher than that of the native enzyme during its active period. This may be achieved by placing the transgenes under the control of a strong promoter, such as the napin promotes. The FAE promoters of *Brassica napus* may also be suitable for overexpression of the transgenes.

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Where the elongase or acyltransferase enzymes are foreign to the plant into which they are introduced, it may be desirable to down-regulate, or disrupt the function of, the corresponding native enzymes or gene products in the plant. For this purpose, antisense sequences of the native elongase or acyltransferase genes may be used to suppress the expression of the native enzymes. The RNA transcribed from the antisense DNA will be capable of binding to, and destroying the function of, a sense version of the RNA found native in the cell, thereby disrupting its function. For example, antisense acyltransferase may be used in a plant where the native 2-

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acyltransferase is not specific for very long chain fatty acids such as erucic acid. Preferably, the antisense sequences will be capable of hybridising to the native sequence under stringent conditions, as defined below.

5 It is not crucial for any such antisense sequence to be transcribed at the same time as the nucleic acid encoding the foreign acyltransferase and elongase. Antisense RNA will in general only bind when its sense complementary strand is present and so will only have its toxic effect at the appropriate time. Thus, any suitable plant promoter may be used, although it will preferably share the same spatial specificity as the native
10 enzyme. Examples of suitable promoters include the napin promoter and the promoter of the lat2 gene from *limnanthes*.

In the context of the present invention "stringent conditions" are defined as those given in Plant genetic Transformation and Gene Expression: A Laboratory Manual,
15 Ed. Draper *et al* 1988, Blackwell Scientific Publications, p252-255, modified as follows: prehybridization, hybridization and washes at 55-65°C, final washes (with 0.5x SSC, 0.1% SDS) omitted.

Alternatively, ribozyme technology may be used to disrupt the expression of the native
20 elongase and/or acyltransferase in the plant. Ribozymes are RNA "enzymes" capable of highly specific cleavage against a given target sequence (Haseloff and Gerlarch, Nature 334 585-591 (1988)).

The nucleic acid sequences to be expressed in the plant may be introduced in the form
25 of a vector. Where nucleic acids encoding both an elongase and acyltransferase enzymes are to be introduced, it may be preferable to incorporate both into a single vector. The vector may be, for example, a phage, plasmid or cosmid.

The vector will preferably also include one or more marker genes to enable the selection of plant cells which have been successfully transformed. Examples of suitable marker genes include antibiotic resistance genes such as those conferring resistance to kanamycin, G418 and hygromycin (*npt-II*, *hyg-B*); herbicide resistance genes such as those conferring resistance to phosphinothricin and sulfonamide based herbicides (*bar* and *suI* respectively; EP-A-242246 and EP-A-0369637) and screenable markers such as beta-glucoronidase (GB2197653), luciferase and green fluorescent protein.

The marker gene is preferably controlled by a second promoter which allows expression in cells other than the seed, thus allowing selection of cells or tissue containing the marker at any stage of development of the plant. Preferred second promoters are the promoter of nopaline synthase gene of *Agrobacterium* and the promoter derived from the gene which encodes the 35S subunit of cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) coat protein. However, any other suitable second promoter may be used.

In order to assist the process of deregulation, it is preferred that the selectable marker gene is not present in the plant which is to be grown commercially. Various techniques for marker elimination are available, including co-transformation followed by segregation and selection of segregants having the gene of interest but lacking the marker gene.

Methods for introducing nucleic acid into a plant are known to persons skilled in the art, and include techniques such as by the use of a disarmed Ti-plasmid vector carried by agrobacterium, for example as described in EP-A-0116718 and EP-A-0270822. Alternatively, the nucleic acid may be introduced by way of a particle gun, directly into the plant cells. This method is preferred for example where the plant is a monocot.

The oil may be extracted from the mature seeds of the plant by any suitable means which will be known to persons skilled in the art. For example, the methods described in Wilmer *et al* J Plant Physiol 147 486-492 (1996)) are available for laboratory scale extraction. For larger scale extraction, standard crushing techniques as practised by
5 the industry may be used.

In a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a plant capable of producing oil having an erucic acid content above 66%. Preferably, the plant is transgenic, and includes nucleic acid encoding an elongase enzyme capable of the
10 production of very long chain fatty acids, including erucic acid, and nucleic acid encoding a 2-acyltransferase. Most preferably, the transgenes are in accordance with those defined in the first aspect of the invention.

The transgenic plants of the second aspect may be used in the production of tailored
15 oils, which differ from native oils of the plant. In the present invention, the oil of the transgenic plant will differ from that of the native plant in terms of the erucic acid content of its oil. In particular, the erucic acid content of the oil will be higher than that of the native plant, and most preferably, it will be above 66%.

20 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, one or more of the plants' native oil biosynthesis enzymes may be rendered inoperative.

Any plant may be used in the present invention. Preferred plants are those whose seeds are used in the production of oil, for example *Brassica napus*, other *Brassica*,
25 mustards, or other cruciferous plants, sunflower, soya or maize.

Also provided are plant parts, such as material required for propagating, in particular seeds.

30 A whole plant can be regenerated from a single transformed plant cell. Thus, in a

further aspect the present invention provides a transgenic plant cell including nucleic acid sequences encoding an elongase enzyme capable of the production of very long chain fatty acids, including erucic acid, and nucleic acid encoding a 2-acyltransferase. The regeneration can proceed by known methods (for *Brassica napus* see Moloney *et al* Plant Cell Reports 8 238-242, 1989).

In a third aspect of the invention, there is provided oil having an erucic acid content above 66%. Preferably, the oil is produced by a method of the first aspect. In a final aspect of the present invention, there is provided the use of such a transformed plant in the production of tailored oil.

Preferred features of the first aspect of the invention are for the other aspects *mutatis mutandis*.

The invention will now be described by way of non-limiting examples, with reference to the drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows the nucleic acid sequence encoding the *Brassica napus* enzyme FAE1-1.

Figure 2 shows the nucleic acid sequence encoding the *Brassica napus* enzyme FAE1-2.

Figure 3 shows the nucleic acid sequence encoding the 2-acyltransferase of *Limnanthes douglasii*.

Figure 4 shows the construction of plasmid pEW13.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of erucic acid levels, expressed as mol% of fatty acids, in seeds of LEAR transformants determined by gas chromatography (20:1 =

eicosenoic acid; 22:1 = erucic acid). Transgenic lines designated 333.n and 334.n were transformed with constructs containing the *fae1-1* gene; lines designated 335.n and 336.n were transformed with constructs containing the *fae1-2* gene. Data are derived from single samples of 20 seeds.

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Figure 6 shows the distribution of erucic acid levels, expressed as mol% of fatty acids, in seeds of high erucic acid winter cultivar BGRV2 transformants determined by gas chromatography (20:1 = eicosenoic acid; 22:1 = erucic acid). Transgenic lines were transformed with either pEW13 (*fae1-1* plus *lat2*) (Lines 337.n, 346.n, 349.n, 360.n, 398.n, 399.n) or pEW14 (*fae1-2* plus *lat2*) (Lines 338.n, 347.n, 350.n, 361.n). Data are derived from single samples of 20 seeds.

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Figure 7 shows the distribution of erucic acid content in selected progeny of primary transformed lines carrying the pEW14 transgenes.

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a: suppressed BGRV2 line in T1; b: suppressed BGRV40 line in T1; c: very high-erucic acid BGRV2 in T1; d: very high-erucic acid BGRV40 in T1. The black bar in each panel represents the T1 parent seed, white bars represent the progeny seed.

EXAMPLES:**Example 1: Isolation of BnFAE1-1 and BnFAE1-2 and cloning into a binary vector.**5 *Starting material*

High erucic rape plants of a line BGRV2 were grown in the glasshouse to provide leaf material for DNA isolation. DNA was isolated essentially as described in Sambrook et al. (Molecular cloning: a laboratory manual, 2nd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989).

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PCR amplification of BnFAE1 sequences

Previously published *B.napus* fae1 sequences were analysed and two oligonucleotide primers were designed to amplify the *B.napus* fae1 genes from the high erucic acid winter line BGRV2:

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BnFAE-F 5'CCTCATGACGTCCATTAACGTAAAGCTCC3' and

BnFAE-R 5'GTGAGCTCTTATTAGGACCGACCGTTTGGG3'.

20 PCR was performed using Tli Taq polymerase in the buffer supplied with 1.5mM MgCl₂, and an annealing temperature of 60°C. PCR products were cloned into pBluescriptII KS(+) (Stratagene) SmaI site and sequenced (MWG Biotech). (Figures 1 and 2)

25 The sequence of the BnFAE1-1 open reading frame shows higher homology to a published partial cDNA derived from *Brassica oleracea* than does BnFAE1-2. We therefore suggest that BnFAE1-1 represents the gene derived from the *B. oleracea* parent of *B. napus* (C-genome) and that BnFAE1-2 represents the *B. rapa* genome (A-genome).

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Construction of plasmids pEW13 and pEW14

The two *fae1* genes which had been amplified, cloned into pBluescript II, and sequenced were designated as pEW1 (*fae1*-1) and pEW3 (*fae1*-2). The *fae1* genes were transferred as *RcaI* -*EcoICRI* fragments into pAR4 (Biogemma UK) *NcoI*-*SmaI* sites to place the genes between the Pnapin and CHS polyA sequences (pEW7 and 6).
5 The two *fae1* expression cassettes were inserted adjacent to a similar Lat2 cassette, by digesting pEW7 and 6 with *SaII*-*SacI* and inserting the fragments into pT7Blue2 *SaII*-*SacI* sites (creating pEW9 and 8), before transfer of an *EcoRI* *EcoICRI* fragment into the binary vector pSCVnos144 (Biogemma UK) *SaII*-*SmaI* sites resulting in pEW13
10 and14. The cloning strategy for the construction of pEW13 is shown in Figure 4.

Example 2: BnFAE1 genes encode elongase activities which specifically catalyse the formation erucic acid (22:1).

15

To demonstrate the product specificity of the two BnFAE1 genes, they were expressed in developing embryos of low erucic acid rape (LEAR).

Both plasmid pEW13 and plasmid pEW14 were transformed into *Agrobacterium* strain C58pMP90 and transformed into LEAR using agrobacterial transformation essentially as described in Moloney et al., (Plant Cell Reports 8: 238-242, 1989). Seed
20 of the resulting transformed plants contain significant levels of erucic acid since both BnFAE1 genes complement mutations in the elongases of the LEAR line.

Oil extraction, separation, and analysis by GC was performed essentially as described in Wilmer et al (J. Plant Physiol. 147: 486-492, 1996). Oil was extracted from samples of 20 seed from each self-pollinated transformed plant. Seed were extracted with 1 ml chloroform, 2.8ml methanol/0.01 N hydrochloric acid (1:0.8, by vol.), containing 2 mg/ml triheptadecanoin as an internal standard. After shaking, 1 ml chloroform and 1
30 ml 0.01N hydrochloric acid were added and mixed. The phases were separated by

centrifugation in a bench-top centrifuge, and the aqueous phase washed with a further 1.5ml chloroform. The organic fraction contains most lipids.

5 Triglycerides were purified on 0.25 mm Silica gel 60 TLC plates, developed in hexane: diethyl ether: acetic acid (70:30:1 by vol.). After drying the lipids were visualised with iodine vapour and areas containing triglycerides were scraped off. TAG were transmethyalted to produce fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES) which could be analysed by gas chromatography.

10 FAME oil analysis was performed on mature seed of 11 plants transformed with constructs containing the *fae1-1* gene and 25 plants transformed with constructs containing the *fae1-2* gene demonstrating that the introduction of either *fae1* gene led to a dramatic increase in the VLCFAs eicosenoic and erucic acid (C20:1 and C22:1) with a corresponding decrease in oleic acid (C18:1) (Figure 5). Both *fae1* genes
15 functioned well in the production of VLCFAs.

Example 3: BnFAE1 genes encode elongase activities which increase erucic acid levels in high-erucic acid oilseed rape.

20 A winter high-erucic acid line, BGRV2 was transformed with the two plasmids pEW13 and pEW14 previously tested in LEAR to examine whether the yield of erucic acid could be further enhanced in a cultivar which produced erucic acid.

Both plasmid pEW13 and plasmid pEW14 were transformed into Agrobacterium
25 strain C58pMP90 and transformed into HEAR using agrobacterial transformation essentially as described in Moloney et al., (Plant Cell Reports 8: 238-242, 1989).

Oil analysis was performed on mature seed as described in Example 2.

Twenty seven plants were analysed (10 with *fae1-1* plus *lat2*, 17 with *fae1-2* plus *lat2*), 9 of which showed an increase in erucic acid of at least 4 mol%, the highest with 67.5 mol% fatty acids compared to the control of 54% as shown in Figure 6. Southern blot hybridisation of some of these plant lines showed that those with an increase in erucic acid had single or double insertions, whereas one of three lines which exhibited a considerable decrease (34%) contained 5 copies (data not shown), so that the phenotype observed could be due to co-suppression.

The data were applied to a t-test to determine whether there was a significant difference between the two populations of plants derived from *fae1-1* or *fae1-2* plus *lat2*. The probability value $p = 0.00056917$, demonstrated that there was a significant difference between the populations, and that *fae1-2* appeared to be more efficient.

The construct pEW14 (*fae1-2* plus *lat2*) was also used to transform a Canadian spring HEAR line BGRV40, with similar results. Three of the four transgenic plants produced, exhibited a considerable increase in erucic acid whereas one line was repressed.

In the lines derived from either of the HEAR varieties it is C22:1 which is specifically increased, not C20:1.

In all cases, it is the T1 generation that has been analysed, which is hemizygous. After self-fertilization and segregation analysis it will be possible to re-evaluate the erucic acid levels in the T2 generation, which may then exhibit further increases in C22:1 as the inserted T-DNA bearing the elongase and acyl-transferase cassette becomes homozygous.

Sn-2 analysis confirmed the incorporation of C22:1 at the Sn-2 position of the TAG by the 2-acyltransferase encoded by the introduced *lat2* gene.

Example 4: Very high erucic acid levels are stable in the next generation in oilseed rape.

Five lines of the winter high-erucic acid line, BGRV2, transformed with the plasmid
5 pEW14, and three lines of the spring high-erucic acid line, BGRV40, transformed with
the plasmid pEW14, chosen from the material described in Example 3 were grown in a
following generation.

Four of the winter high erucic-acid lines and two of the spring high-erucic acid lines
10 contained one or two copies of the transgene as determined by southern analysis,
whereas one each of the winter and spring lines contained multiple copies of the
transgenes.

Twenty plants per line were grown in the glasshouse and presence of the additional
15 fae1-2 gene was confirmed using PCR with a primer sequence internal to the fae1-2
sequence and a primer inside the CHS terminator sequence. Mature seed was collected
for analysis and oil analysis was performed on these seed as described in Example 2.

The two lines with multiple copies of the transgene that showed reduced levels of
20 erucic acid in the T1 seed, both produced a wide range of erucic levels in the T2, as
shown in figure 7.a and b. The lowest levels observed were below those observed in
T1 seed, the highest levels well above the level of erucic acid observed in non-
transgenic control oilseed rape of the appropriate line, and similar to the highest levels
observed in the low-copy number lines, at least for the winter oilseed rape.

25

For the lines that showed increases in erucic acid in the T1 seed, this phenotype was
maintained in the T2 seed, with the highest levels of erucic acid observed still around
67 to 68% (figure 7.c and d).

When the progeny of the lines with single or double copies of the transgene were tested by PCR for the presence of the transgene, segregation ratios of transgenic versus non-transgenic plants were observed that are consistent with a mendelian segregation of the transgene. Chi-square tests returned values showing non-significant deviation
5 from an independent segregation model (data not shown).

CLAIMS

1. A method of producing, in a plant, oil having an erucic acid content above 66% erucic acid, the method comprising (i) expressing in the plant nucleic acid
5 encoding an elongase and nucleic acid encoding an acyltransferase enzyme; and (ii) extracting oil from the plant.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the elongase is a fatty acid elongase enzyme from *Brassica napus*, or one substantially identical thereto.
- 10 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the fatty acid elongase is encoded by the sequence of Figure 1 or 2, or a sequence substantially identical thereto.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the acyltransferase is
15 a 2-acyltransferase.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the 2-acyltransferase is from *L. douglassi*.
- 20 6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the nucleic acid sequences are under the control of a regulatory sequence.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the regulatory sequence is an FAE promoter of *Brassica napus*.
- 25 8. A method according to any one of the previous claims wherein the nucleic acid sequences are provided in the form of a vector.
9. A method according to any one of the previous claims wherein the nucleic acid
30 sequences are operably linked to one or more marker genes.

10. A method according to any one of the previous claims wherein the activity of the native elongase and/or acyltransferase of the plant is suppressed.
- 5 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the activity is suppressed by antisense technology.
12. A transgenic plant capable of producing oil having an erucic acid content above 66%.
- 10 13. A transgenic plant according to claim 12 which expresses a 2-acyltransferase and an elongase enzyme which are not native to the plant.
14. A plant according to claim 12 or 13 which is *Brassica napus*.
- 15 15. A seed of a plant of any one of claims 12 to 14.
16. Oil produced by a method of any one of claims 1 to 11.
- 20 17. Oil extracted from a plant of any one of claims 12 to 14.

Figure 1

Sequence of the coding region of the Brassica napus FAE1-1 gene

5	1	ATGACGTCCA	TTAACGTAAA	GCTCCTTTAC	CATTACGTCA	TAACCAACCT
		TACTGCAGGT	AATTGCATTT	CGAGGAAATG	GTAATGCAGT	ATTGGTTGGA
	51	TTTCAACCTT	TGTTTCTTTC	CATTAACGGC	GATCGTCGCC	GGAAAAGCCT
		AAAGTTGGAA	ACAAAGAAAAG	GTAATTGCCG	CTAGCAGCGG	CCTTTTCGGA
10	101	ATCGGCTTAC	CATAGACGAT	CTTCACCACT	TATACTATTC	CTATCTCCAA
		TAGCCGAATG	GTATCTGCTA	GAAGTGGTGA	ATATGATAAG	GATAGAGGTT
	151	CACAACCTCA	TAACCATTGC	TCCACTCTTT	GCCTTCACCG	TTTTCGGTTT
15		GTGTTGGAGT	ATTGGTAACG	AGGTGAGAAA	CGGAAGTGGC	AAAAGCCAAG
	201	GGTTCTCTAC	ATCGCAACCC	GGCCCAAACC	GGTTTACCTC	GTTGAGTACT
		CCAAGAGATG	TAGCGTTGGG	CCGGGTTTGG	CCAAATGGAG	CAACTCATGA
20	251	CATGCTACCT	TCCACCAACG	CAT'TGTAGAT	CAAGTATCTC	CAAGGTCATG
		GTACGATGGA	AGGTGGTTGC	GTAACATCTA	GTTCATAGAG	GTTCCAGTAC
	301	GATATCTTTT	ACCAAGTAAG	AAAAGCTGAT	CCTTCTCGGA	ACGGCACGTG
		CTATAGAAAA	TGGTTCATTC	TTTTCGACTA	GGAAGAGCCT	TGCCGTGCAC
25	351	CGATGACTCG	TCCTGGCTTG	ACTTCTTTGAG	GAAGATTCAA	GAACGTTTCAG
		GCTACTGAGC	AGGACCGAAC	TGAAGAACTC	CTTCTAAGTT	CTTGCAAGTC
	401	GTCTAGGCGA	TGAAACCCAC	GGGCCCCGAGG	GGCTGCTTCA	GGTCCCTCCC
30		CAGATCCGCT	ACTTTGGGTG	CCCGGGCTCC	CCGACGAAGT	CCAGGGAGGG
	451	CGGAAGACTT	TTGCGGCGGC	GCGTGAAGAG	ACGGAGCAAG	TTATCATTTGG
		GCCTTCTGAA	AACGCCGCCG	CGCACTTCTC	TGCCCTCGTT	AATAGTAACC
35	501	TGCGCTAGAA	AATCTATTCA	AGAACACCAA	TGTTAACCCCT	AAAGATATAG
		ACGCGATCTT	TTAGATAAGT	TC'TTGTGGTT	ACAATTGGGA	TTTCTATATC
	551	GTATACTTGT	GGTGAACCTA	AGCATGTTTA	ATCCAACCTC	TTGCTCTTCC
		CATATGAACA	CCACTTGAGT	TCGTACAAAT	TAGGTTGAGG	AAGCGAGAGG
40	601	GCGATGGTCG	TTAACACTTT	CAAGCTCCGA	AGCAACGTAA	GAAGCTTTAA
		CGCTACCAGC	AATTGTGAAA	GTTCGAGGCT	TCGTTGCATT	CTTCGAAATT
	651	CCTTGGTGGC	ATGGGTGTGA	GTGCCGGCGT	TATAGCCATT	GATCTAGCAA
45		GGAACCACCG	TACCCAACAT	CACGGCCGCA	ATATCGGTAA	CTAGATCGTT
	701	AGGACTTGTT	GCATGTCCAT	AAAAATACGT	ATGCTCTTGT	GGTGAGCACA
		TCCTGAACAA	CGTACAGGTA	TTTTTATGCA	TACGAGAACA	CCACTCGTGT
50	751	GAGAACATCA	CTTATAACAT	TTACGCTGGT	GATAATAGGT	CCATGATGGT
		CTCTTGTAGT	GAATATTGTA	AATGCGACCA	CTATTATCCA	GGTACTACCA
	801	TTCAAATTGC	TTGTTCCGTG	TGGTGCGGGC	CGCTATTTTG	CTCTCCAACA
		AAGTTTAAACG	AACAAGGCAC	AACCACCCCG	GCGATAAAAC	GAGAGGTTGT

	851	AGCCTAGAGA TCGGATCTCT	TCGTAGACGG AGCATCTGCC	TCCAAGTACG AGGTCATGC	AGCTAGTTCA TCGATCAAGT	CACGGTTCGA GTGCCAAGCT
5	901	ACGCATACCG TGCGTATGGC	GAGCTGACGA CTCGACTGCT	CAAGTCTTTT GTTTCAGAAAA	CGTTGCGTGC GCAACGCACG	AACAAGGAGA TTGTTCTCTT
	951	CGATGAGAAC GCTACTCTTG	GGCAAAACCG CCGTTTTTGGC	GAGTGAGTTT CTCACTCAAA	GTCCAAGGAC CAGGTTCTCTG	ATAACCGATG TATTGGCTAC
10	1001	TTGCTGGTCG AACGACCAGC	AACGGTTAAG TTGCCAATTC	AAAAACATAG TTTTTGTATC	CAACGCTGGG GTTGCGACCC	TCCGTTGATT AGGCAACTAA
15	1051	CTTCCGTTAA GAAGGCAATT	GCGAGAAACT CGCTCTTTGA	TCTTTTTC AGAAAAAAG	GTTACCTTCA CAATGGAAGT	TGGGCAAGAA ACCCGTTCTT
	1101	ACTTTTCAAA TGAAAAGTTT	GACAAAATCA CTGTTTTAGT	AACATTATTA TTGTAATAAT	CGTCCCGGAC GCAGGGCCTG	TTCAAGCTTG AAGTTCGAAC
20	1151	CTATCGACCA GATAGCTGGT	TTTTTGTATA AAAAACATAT	CATGCCGGAG GTACGGCCTC	GCAAAGCCGT CGTTTCGGCA	GATTGATGTG CTAACTACAC
	1201	CTAGAGAAGA GATCTCTTCT	ACCTAGGCCT TGGATCCGGA	AGCACCGATC TCGTGGCTAG	GATGTAGAGG CTACATCTCC	CATCAAGATC GTAGTTCTAG
25	1251	AACGTTACAT TTGCAATGTA	AGATTTGGAA TCTAAACCTT	ACACTTCATC TGTGAAGTAG	TAGCTCAATA ATCGAGTTAT	TGGTATGAGT ACCATACTCA
	1301	TGGCATACAT ACCGTATGTA	AGAAGCAAAA TCTTCGTTTT	GGAAGGATGA CCTTCCTACT	AGAAAGGTAA TCTTTCCATT	TAAAGTTTGG ATTTCAAACC
30	1351	CAGATTGCTT GTCTAACGAA	TAGGGTCAGG ATCCCAGTCC	CTTTAAGTGT GAAATTCACA	AACAGTGCAG TTGTCACGTC	TTTGGGTGGC AAACCCACCG
35	1401	TCTAAACAAT AGATTTGTTA	GTCAAAGCTT CAGTTTCGAA	CAACAAATAG GTTGTTTATC	TCCTTGGGAA AGGAACCCTT	CACTGCATCG GTGACGTAGC
	1451	ACAGATACCC TGTCTATGGG	GGTTAAAATT CCAATTTTAA	GATTCTGATT CTAAGACTAA	CAGGTAAGTC GTCCATTTCAG	AGAGACTCGT TCTCTGAGCA
40	1501	GTCCAAAACG CAGGTTTTGC	GTCGGTCCTA CAGCCAGGAT	A T		

Figure 2

Sequence of the coding region of the Brassica napus FAE1-2 gene

5	1	ATGACGTCCA	TTAACGTAAA	GCTCCTTTAC	CATTACGTCA	TAACCAACCT
		TACTGCAGGT	AATTGCATTT	CGAGGAAATG	GTAATGCAGT	ATTGTTTGGG
10	51	TTTCAACCTT	TGCTTCTTTC	CGTTAACGGC	GATCGTCGCC	GGAAAAGCCT
		AAAGTTGGAA	ACGAAGAAAG	GCAATTGCCG	CTAGCAGCGG	CCTTTTTCGA
	101	ATCGGCTTAC	CATAGACGAT	CTTCACCACT	TATACTATTC	CTATCTCCAA
		TAGCCGAATG	GTATCTGCTA	GAGTGGTGA	ATATGATAAG	GATAGAGGTT
15	151	CACAACCTCA	TAACCATCGC	TCCACTCTTT	GCCTTCACCG	TTTTCGGTTT
		GTGTTGGAGT	ATTGGTAGCG	AGGTGAGAAA	CGGAAGTGGC	AAAAGCCAAG
	201	GGTTCTCTAC	ATCGCAACCC	GGCCCAAACC	GGTTTACCTC	GTTGAGTACT
		CCAAGAGATG	TAGCGTTGGG	CCGGGTTTGG	CCAAATGGAG	CAACTCATGA
20	251	CATGCTACCT	TCCACCAACG	CATTGTAGAT	CAAGTATCTC	CAAGGTCATG
		GTACGATGGA	AGGTGGTTGC	GTAACATCTA	GTTTCATAGAG	GTTCCAGTAC
	301	GATATCTTTT	ATCAAGTAAG	AAAAGCTGAT	CCTTCTCGGA	ACGGCACGTG
25		CTATAGAAAA	TAGTTCATTC	TTTTCGACTA	GGAAGAGCCT	TGCCGTGCAC
	351	CGATGACTCG	TCGTGGCTTG	ACTTCTTGAG	GAAGATTCAA	GAACGTTTCAG
		GCTACTGAGC	AGCACCGAAC	TGAAGAACTC	CTTCTAAGTT	CTTGCAAGTC
30	401	GTCTAGGCGA	TGAAACTCAC	GGGCCCCGAGG	GGCTGCTTCA	GGTCCCTCCC
		CAGATCCGCT	ACTTTGAGTG	CCCGGGCTCC	CCGACGAAGT	CCAGGGAGGG
	451	CGGAAGACTT	TTGCGGCGGC	GCGTGAAGAG	ACGGAGCAAG	TTATCATTGG
		GCCTTCTGAA	AACGCCGCCG	CGCACTTCTC	TGCCTCGTTT	AATAGTAACC
35	501	TGCACTAGAA	AATCTATTCA	AGAACACCAA	CGTTAACCCCT	AAAGATATAG
		ACGTGATCTT	TTAGATAAGT	TCTTGTGGTT	GCAATTGGGA	TTTCTATATC
	551	GTATACTTGT	GGTGAACCTA	AGCATGTTTA	ATCCAACCTC	ATCGCTCTCC
40		CATATGAACA	CCACTTGAGT	TCGTACAAAT	TAGGTTGAGG	TAGCGAGAGG
	601	GCGATGGTCG	TTAACACTTT	CAAGCTCCGA	AGCAACGTAA	GAAGCTTTAA
		CGCTACCAGC	AATTGTGAAA	GTTCGAGGCT	TCGTTGCATT	CTTCGAAATT
45	651	CCTTGGTGGC	ATGGGTTGTA	GTGCCGGCGT	TATAGCCATT	GATCTAGCAA
		GGAACCACCG	TACCCAACAT	CACGGCCGCA	ATATCGGTAA	CTAGATCGTT
	701	AGGACTTGTT	GCATGTCCAT	AAAAATACGT	ATGCTCTTGT	GGTGAGCACA
		TCCTGAACAA	CGTACAGGTA	TTTTTATGCA	TACGAGAACA	CCACTCGTGT
50	751	GAGAACATCA	CTTATAACAT	TTACGCTGGT	GATAATAGGT	CCATGATGGT
		CTCTTGTAAGT	GAATATTGTA	AATGCGACCA	CTATTATCCA	GGTACTACCA
55	801	TTCAAATTGC	TTGTTCCGTG	TTGGTGGGGC	CGCTATTTTG	CTCTCCAACA
		AAGTTTAACG	AACAAGGCAC	AACCACCCCG	GCGATAAAAC	GAGAGGTTGT

	851	AGCCTGGAGA	TCGTAGACGG	TCCAAGTACG	AGCTAGTTCA	CACGGTTCGA
		TCGGACCTCT	AGCATCTGCC	AGGTTTCATGC	TCGATCAAGT	GTGCCAAGCT
5	901	ACGCATACCG	GAGCTGACGA	CAAGTCTTTT	CGTTGCGTGC	AACAAGGAGA
		TGCGTATGGC	CTCGACTGCT	GTTCAGAAAA	GCAACGCACG	TTGTTCTCTCT
	951	CGATGAGAAC	GGCAAAATCG	GAGTGAGTTT	GTCCAAGGAC	ATAACCGATG
10		GCTACTCTTG	CCGTTTTTAGC	CTCACTCAAA	CAGGTTCCTG	TATTGGCTAC
	1001	TTGCTGGTCG	AACGGTTAAG	AAAAACATAG	CAACGTTGGG	TCCGTTGATT
		AACGACCAGC	TTGCCAATTC	TTTTTGTATC	GTTGCAACCC	AGGCAACTAA
	1051	CTTCCGTTAA	GCGAGAAACT	TCTTTTTTTC	GTTACCTTCA	TGGGCAAGAA
15		GAAGGCAATT	CGCTCTTTGA	AGAAAAAAG	CAATGGAAGT	ACCCGTTCTT
	1101	ACTTTTCAAA	GATAAAATCA	AACATTACTA	CGTCCCGGAT	TTCAAACCTG
		TGAAAAGTTT	CTATTTTAGT	TTGTAATGAT	GCAGGGCCTA	AAGTTTGAAC
20	1151	CTATTGACCA	TTTTTGTATA	CATGCCGGAG	GCAGAGCCGT	GATTGATGTG
		GATAACTGGT	AAAAACATAT	GTACGGCCTC	CGTCTCGGCA	CTAACTACAC
	1201	CTAGAGAAGA	ACCTAGCCCT	AGCACCGATC	GATGTAGAGG	CATCAAGATC
25		GATCTCTTCT	TGGATCGGGA	TCGTGGCTAG	CTACATCTCC	GTAGTTCTAG
	1251	AACGTTACAT	AGATTTGGAA	ACACTTCATC	TAGCTCAATA	TGGTATGAGT
		TTGCAATGTA	TCTAAACCTT	TGTGAAGTAG	ATCGAGTTAT	ACCATACTCA
	1301	TGGCATACAT	AGAAGCAAAA	GGAAGGATGA	AGAAAGGTAA	TAAAGTTTGG
30		ACCGTATGTA	TCTTCGTTTT	CCTTCCTACT	TCTTCCATT	ATTTCAAACC
	1351	CAGATTGCTT	TAGGGTCAGG	CTTTAAGTGT	AACAGTGCAG	TTTGGGTGGC
		GTCTAACGAA	ATCCCAGTCC	GAAATTCACA	TTGTCACGTC	AAACCCACCG
35	1401	TCTAAACAAT	GTCAAAGCTT	CGACAAATAG	TCCTTGGGAA	CACTGCATCG
		AGATTTGTTA	CAGTTTCGAA	GCTGTTTATC	AGGAACCCCT	GTGACGTAGC
	1451	ACAGATACCC	GGTCAAAATT	GATTCTGATT	CAGGTAAGTC	AGAGACTCGT
		TGTCTATGGG	CCAGTTTTAA	CTAAGACTAA	GTCCATTTCAG	TCTCTGAGCA
40	1501	GTCCAAAACG	GTCGGTCCTA	A		
		CAGGTTTTGC	CAGCCAGGAT	T		

Figure 3Sequence of the coding region of the LPAAT gene LAT2 from *Limnanthes douglasii*.

5	1	ATGGCCAAAA	CTAGAACTAG	CTCTCTCCGC	AACAGGAGAC	AACTAAAGCC
		TACCGGTTTT	GATCTTGATC	GAGAGAGGCG	TTGTCTCTCG	TTGATTTCGG
10	51	GGCTGTAGCT	GCTACTGCTG	ATGATGATAA	AGATGGGGTT	TTTATGGTAT
		CCGACATCGA	CGATGACGAC	TACTACTATT	TCTACCCCAA	AAATACCATA
	101	TGCTATCGTG	TTTTAAAATT	TTTGTCTGCT	TTGCCATAGT	GTTGATCACC
		ACGATAGCAC	AAAATTTTAA	AAACAAACGA	AACGGTATCA	CAACTAGTGG
15	151	GCGGTGGCAT	GGGGACTAAT	CATGGTCTTG	CTCTTACCTT	GGCCTTATAT
		CGCCACCGTA	CCCCTGATTA	GTACCAGAAC	GAGAATGGAA	CCGGAATATA
	201	GAGGATTCTGA	CTAGGAAATC	TATACGGCCA	TATCATTGGT	GGATTAGTGA
		CTCCTAAGCT	GATCCTTTAG	ATATGCCGGT	ATAGTAACCA	CCTAATCACT
20	251	TATGGATTTA	CGGAATACCA	ATAAAGATCC	AAGGATCCGA	GCATACAAAG
		ATACCTAAAT	GCCTTATGGT	TATTTCTAGG	TCCTTAGGCT	CGTATGTTTC
	301	AAGAGGGCCA	TTTATATAAG	CAATCATGCA	TCTCCTATCG	ATGCTTTCTT
25		TTCTCCCGGT	AAATATATTC	GTTAGTACGT	AGAGGATAGC	TACGAAAGAA
	351	TGTTATGTGG	TTGGCTCCCA	TAGGCACAGT	TGGTGTTCGA	AAGAAAGAGG
		ACAATACACC	AACCGAGGGT	ATCCGTGTCA	ACCACAACGT	TTCTTTCTCC
30	401	TTATATGGTA	TCCGCTGCTT	GGACAACAT	ATACATTAGC	CCATCATATT
		AATATACCAT	AGGCGACGAA	CCTGTTGATA	TATGTAATCG	GGTAGTATAA
	451	CGCATAGATC	GGTCAAACCC	GGCTGCGGCT	ATTCAGTCTA	TGAAAGAGGC
		GCGTATCTAG	CCAGTTTGGG	CCGACGCCGA	TAAGTCAGAT	ACTTTCTCCG
35	501	AGTTCGTGTA	ATAACCGAAA	AGAATCTCTC	TCTGATTATG	TTTCCAGAGG
		TCAAGCACAT	TATTGGCTTT	TCTTAGAGAG	AGACTAATAC	AAAGGTCTCC
	551	GAACCAGGTC	GAGAGATGGG	CGTTTACTTC	CTTCAAGAA	GGGTTTGTGT
40		CTTGGTCCAG	CTCTCTACCC	GCAAAATGAAG	GAAAGTTCTT	CCCCAAACAA
	601	CATCTAGCAC	TTCAGTCACA	TCTCCCAATA	GTTCCGATGA	TCCTTACAGG
		GTAGATCGTG	AAGTCAGTGT	AGAGGGTTAT	CAAGGCTACT	AGGAATGTCC
45	651	TACACATTTA	GCATGGAGGA	AAGGTACCTT	CCGTGTCCGG	CCAGTACCCA
		ATGTGTAAAT	CGTACCTCCT	TTCCATGGAA	GGCACAGGCC	GGTCATGGGT
	701	TCACTGTCAA	GTACCTTCCT	CCTATAAACA	CTGATGATTG	GACTGTTGAC
		AGTGACAGTT	CATGGAAGGA	GGATATTTGT	GACTACTAAC	CTGACAACCTG
50	751	AAAATCGACG	ATTACGTCAA	AATGATACAC	GACGTCTATG	TCCGCAACCT
		TTTLAGCTGC	TAATGCAGTT	TACTATGTG	CTGCAGATAC	AGGCGTTGGA
	801	ACCTGCGTCT	CAAAAACCAC	TTGGTAGCAC	AAATCGCTCA	AAT
55		TGGACGCAGA	GTTTTTGGTG	AACCATCGTG	TTTAGCGAGT	TTA

Figure 4
Construction of pEW13

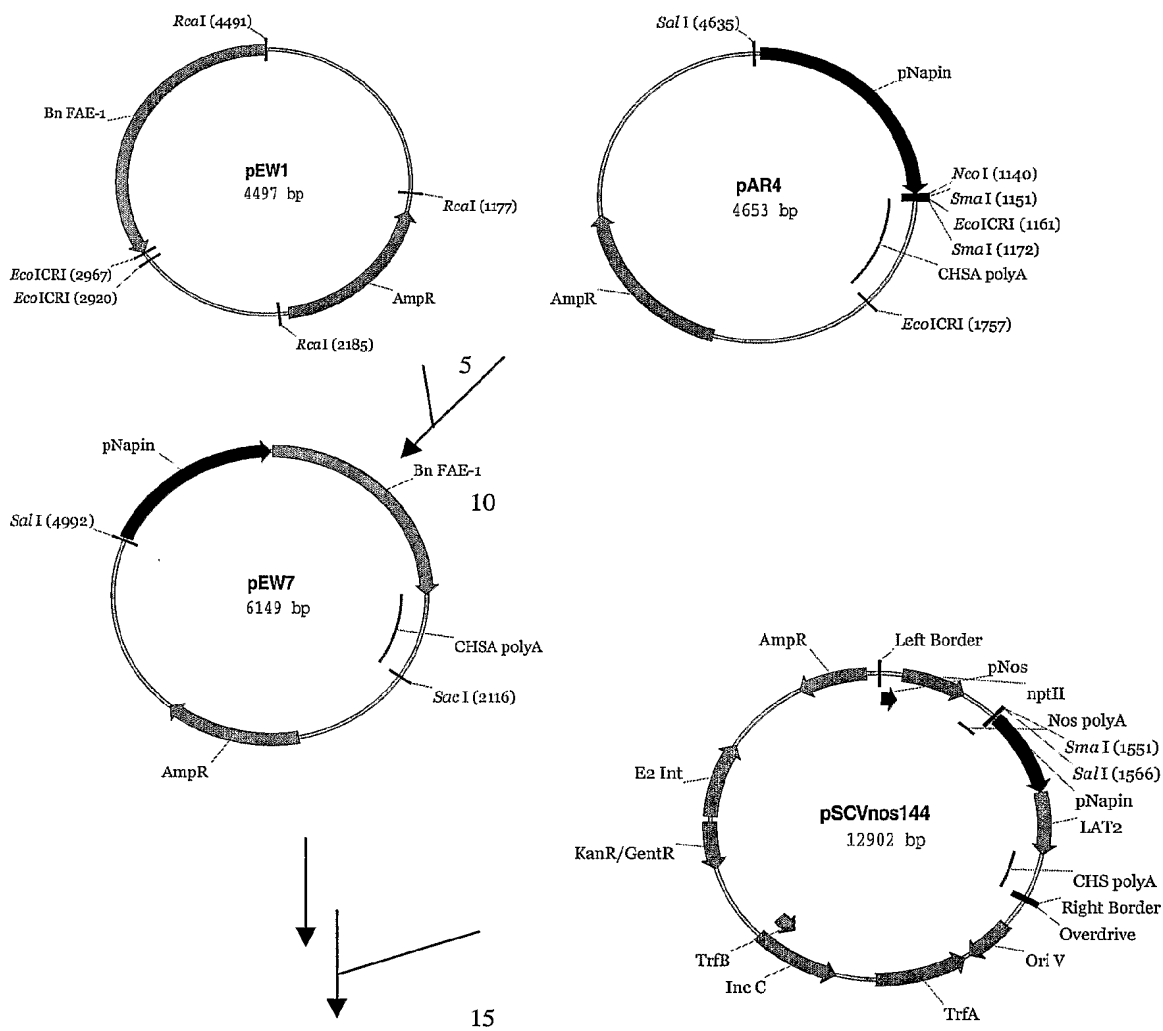


Figure 4 (continued)

5

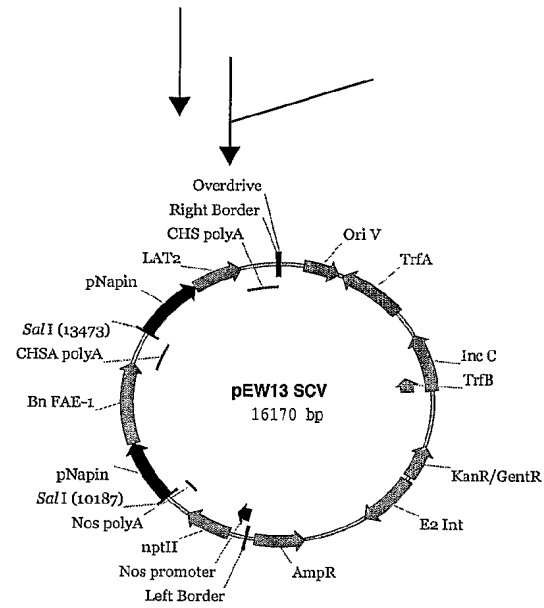


Figure 5

Distribution of erucic acid levels in LEAR (mol% of fatty acids)

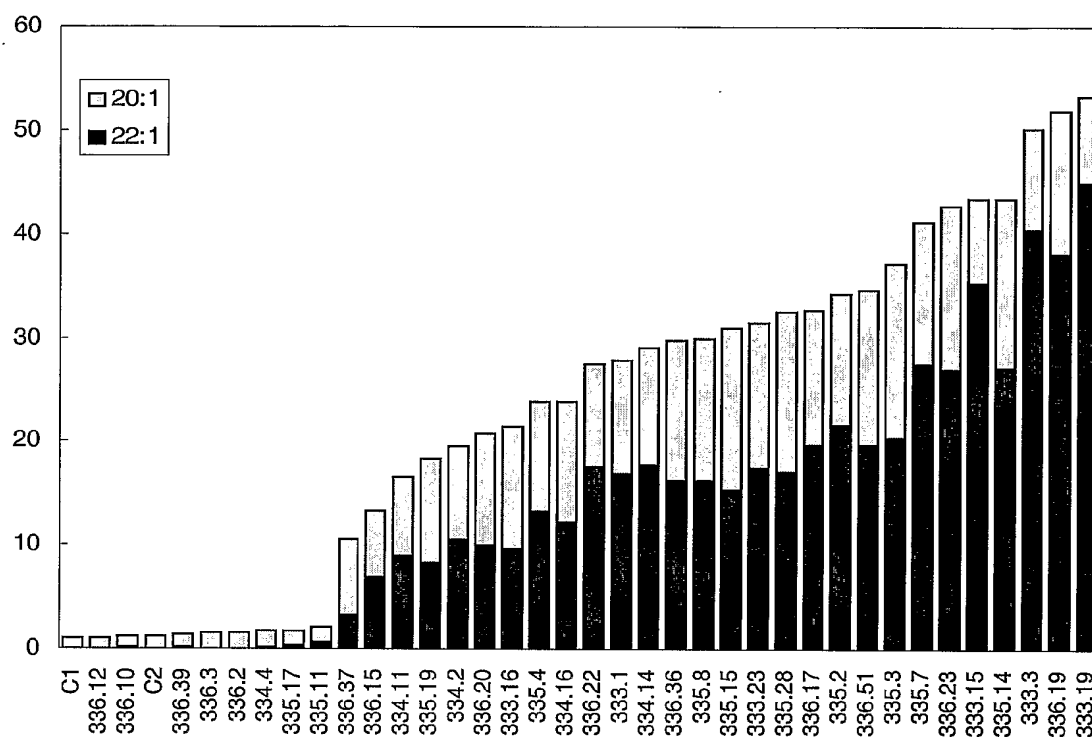


Figure 6

Distribution of erucic acid levels in 94-He-24 (mol% of fatty acids)

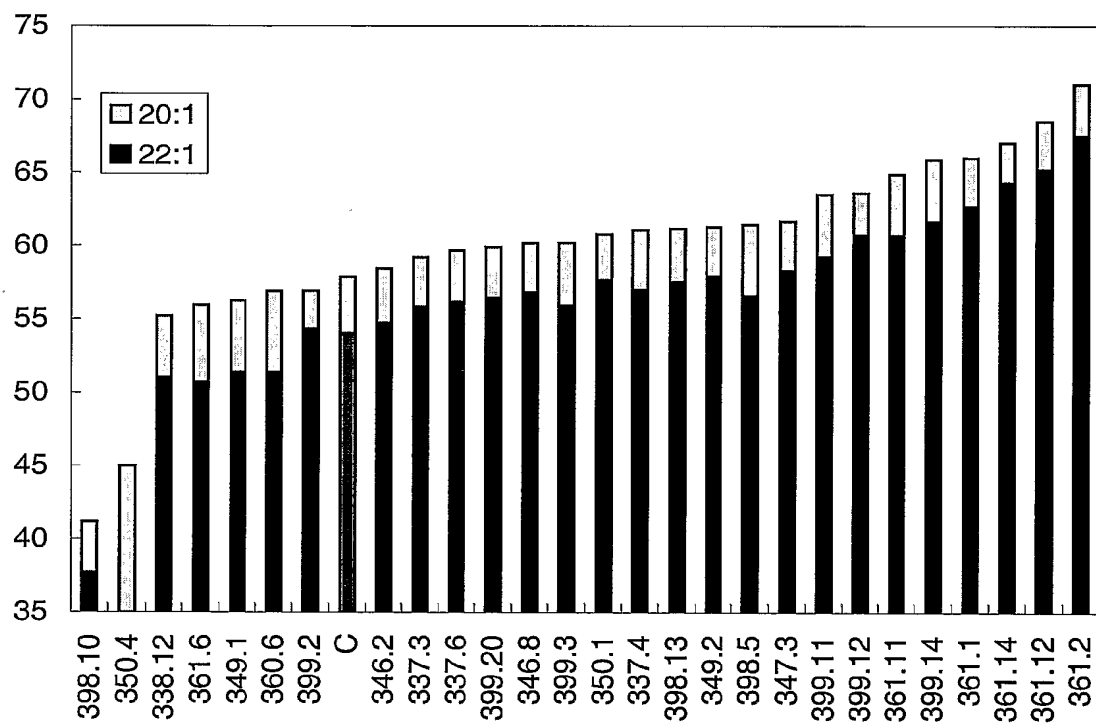


Figure 7: